



TEACHING HOSPITALS of TEXAS

THOT MEMBERS

AUSTIN

Central Health
Dell Seton Medical Center at the
University of Texas at Austin

CORPUS CHRISTI

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System
Nueces County Hospital District

DALLAS

Children's Health System of
Texas
Parkland Health & Hospital
System
The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center

EL PASO

University Medical Center
of El Paso

GALVESTON

The University of Texas
Medical Branch

HOUSTON

Harris Health System
The University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center

LUBBOCK

UMC Health System of Lubbock

MIDLAND

Midland Health

ODESSA

Medical Center Health System

SAN ANTONIO

University Health System

TYLER

University of Texas Health Science
Center at Tyler

GME Affiliate

RIO GRANDE VALLEY - EDINBURG
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance

September 25, 2020

House Committee on Human Services
Texas Capitol - E2.125
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Interim Charge 5 - Examine the adequacy of Medicaid reimbursements for nursing facilities, including existing incentive-based payment models and the Quality Incentive Payment Program. Consider and make recommendations to incentivize innovative models of care delivery in nursing home facilities. Study the impact of the STAR+PLUS managed care program on nursing facility care, operations and patient health outcomes, and consider recommendations to improve administrative processes between facilities and managed care organizations.

Chair Frank and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on Interim Charge 5. The Teaching Hospitals of Texas members include large public urban teaching hospitals and several affiliated non-profit health systems sharing three core commitments. They provide quality care to all, in particular vulnerable Texans; are prepared for and provide trauma and disaster services and care; and supporting Texas' healthcare workforce and graduate medical education as well as clinical and delivery system research and transformation. A few of our members currently participate in the Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) as non-state governmental ownership entities partnering with nursing facilities to improve quality and innovation.

The Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) began in September 2017 and has been successful in aiding nursing facilities to improve their quality and innovation of their services by compensating them for meeting certain goals or metrics. The program is funded by local intergovernmental transfers and federal matching funding.

The program is currently in its fourth year and focuses on staffing coverage as well as recruitment and retention of staff. Facilities are also required to meet national benchmarks demonstrating improvement on length of stay, percent of patients on antipsychotics medications and patient's ability to move

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independently. In addition, nursing facilities can be compensated for infection control programs and certain vaccination rates.

A leading factor in why our members participate in this program is because it has allowed them to close the gap on the care continuum for their uninsured or SSI-pending patients who are in need of nursing home level of care. These members negotiated with their partner nursing homes to accept a certain number of indigent patients who were unable to access nursing home care prior to the QIPP program. The addition of this post-acute strategy has saved bed days within their hospitals and improved care for these patients. This has also allowed for improved care coordination between the health systems and the nursing facilities which has led to decreases readmission rates.

Our members that participate in the program are active partners ensuring their nursing facilities are able to meet their quality goals. For example, starting in April Parkland Health and Hospital System developed a COVID-19 Action Plan which communicated expectations and responsibilities for coordination with its nursing facilities. Parkland Health and Hospital System also committed to providing support to its nursing facilities during pandemic by:

- Seeking and receiving federal authorization to use excess COVID-19 tests to test nursing facility residents and select numbers of staff each day. This began prior to the Governor's orders.
- Conducting WebEx meetings with all nursing facilities to provide updates on policies, infection prevention practices, and federal, state, and local guidelines.
- Parkland's infection prevention and facilities teams also provide guidance and site visits.
- Sharing personal protective equipment and other resources that have been distributed to the hospital or hospital district.

QIPP partnerships help support the continuum of care for patients and provides nursing facilities with the resources and opportunities to improve the quality of care they deliver. THOT supports the program and would advocate for the continuation of QIPP to supplement nursing home reimbursement and improve quality.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please let me know if you have any questions or we can be of assistance to the Committee.



Maureen Milligan
President and CEO
Teaching Hospitals of Texas

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